

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01      WARSAW 06128 311233Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3575

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 6128

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PL US

SUBJ: CARDINAL WOJTYLA'S VISIT TO US

REFS: A. WARSAW 4399, B. STATE 155904

1. CARDINAL WOJTYLA IS DUE TO RETURN TO POLAND FROM THE US ON SATURDAY. IN A MEETING A FEW DAYS AGO WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER, FATHER GOSCINSKI, THE SECRETARY TO THE BISHOP OF WARSAW (WHO, IN TURN, IS SECRETARY TO THE EPISCOPATE AND VERY CLOSE TO CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI) SAID THAT THE POLISH BISHOPS HAD "NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT." HE THEN DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON THE REASONS WHY THEY SHOULD BE. FIRST, HE SAID, THIS IS THE FIRST DELEGATION OF THIS STATURE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. CARDINAL WOJTYLA IS AN IMPORTANT FIGURE. THE BISHOPS, HE SAID, REPRESENT NOT ONLY THE CHURCH, BUT ALSO THE POLISH NATION. IN VIEW OF THE GOOD RELATIONS WHICH EXIST AT PRESENT BETWEEN AND POLISH CHURCH AND THE STATE, SYMBOLIZED BY THE FLOWERS WHICH PRIME MINISTER JAROSZEWICZ SENT CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY, FATHER GOSCINSKI WAS OF THE OPINION THAT RECEPTION OF THE BISHOPS BY THE PRESIDENT WOULD "ALSO BE AN HONOR FOR THE POLISH GOVERNMENT."

2. FATHER GOSCINSKI SAID HE HOPED THAT, WHEN THE PRESIDENT RETURNED TO WASHINGTON, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE BISHOPS, WHO WILL BE THERE AT THE END OF THEIR U.S. TOUR.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED ONE LETTER FROM A POLISH CITIZEN (THE SIGNATURE IS ILLEGIBLE) MAKING ESSENTIALLY THESE SAME  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02      WARSAW 06128 311233Z

POINTS IN A WELL-REASONED FASHION AND URGING THAT WE RECOMMEND

THE PRESIDENT RECEIVE THE EPISCOPAL DELEGATION.

4. COMMENT: WHILE I AM NOT AT ALL SURE THE POLISH REGIME WOULD, AS FATHER GOSCINSKI IMPLIES, WELCOME A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND CARDINAL WOJTYLA, HE IS CERTAINLY CORRECT IN POINTING TO THE EXCELLENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE. IT FOLLOWS FROM THIS THAT THE STATE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO OBJECT STRONGLY TO SUCH A MEETING, PROVIDED THE PUBLICITY ARISING FROM IT WERE HANDLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUGGESTIONS IN REF A.

5. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE REASONABLY CAN TO SHOW OUR QUIET SUPPORT FOR THE POLISH EPISCOPATE, WHICH HAS CONDUCTED ITSELF MOST RESPONSIBLY IN THE TWO SIGNIFICANT CRISES OF THE PAST YEAR, I.E., THE JUNE DISTURBANCES AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE.

6. FATHER GOSCINSKI'S DETAILED ARGUMENTATION IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI'S STRONG SUPPORT OF A MEETING. IF THE EPISCOPAL DELEGATION IS NOT RECEIVED AT A HIGH LEVEL IN WASHINGTON, IT IS LIKELY THAT POLISH CIRCLES IN THE WEST WILL ASK WHY.

7. RECOMMENDATION: IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN ARRANGING A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, I RECOMMEND THAT URGENT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, OR ANOTHER HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, MEETING BRIEFLY WITH CARDINAL WOJTYLA AND THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION.

8. IF SUCH A MEETING PROVES POSSIBLE, I SHOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE BEING ABLE TO INFORM THE POLISH GOVERNMENT BEFOREHAND THAT IT WILL TAKE PLACE (REF A, PARA 6).

DAVIES

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